

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07
INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 DHA-02 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 AID-05 /100 W
-----141529Z 126698 /44

R 131856Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0477
AMEMBASSY LIMA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION EC BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 3563

DEPT FOR ARA LABOR ADVISOR O'GRADY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PPINS ELAB ICFTU ILO AR
SUBJECT: EX-MARITIME UNION LEADER REPORTEDLY FLEES ARGENTINA

REF: (A) BUENOS AIRES 265 NOTAL, (B) BUENOS AIRES 2868 NOTAL

1. WE HAVE A REPORT FROM A USUALLY RELIABLE EMBASSY CONTACT THAT LIVIO ROBERTO MASSAGATTI, WHO WAS HEAD OF THE MARITIME WORKERS UNION (SOMU) AND MARITIME WORKERS FEDERATION (FAMAR) UNTIL BOTH WERE INTERVENED BY MILITARY AUTHORITIES LAST YEAR, DISAPPEARED AND POSSIBLY MAY HAVE FLED THE COUNTRY FOLLOWING AN INTERVIEW HE HAD WITH JUNTA MEMBER ADMIRAL MASSERA, REPORT-EDLY LAST WEEK. DURING THE PERVIOUS PERONIST REGIME MASSAGATTI WAS APPOINTED (WORKER) HEAD OF ELMA, THE STATE SHIPPING LINES. SINCE THE UNION'S INTERVENTION LAST YEAR (REFTEL A), MASSAGATTI HAD RETURNED TO HIS ORIGINAL TRADE, WORKING AS A
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WAITER ON BOARD THE PACKET BOAT THAT COMMUTES EVENINGS BETWEEN BUENOS AIRES AND COLONIA, URUGUAY.

2. ACCORDING TO INFORMATION PROVIDED BY A CONFIDANT OF MASSAGATTI'S, THE EX-UNION LEADER REQUESTED AN APPOINTMENT WITH ADMIRAL MASSERA TO TURN OVER TO HIM EVIDENCE THE EX-UNION HEAD HAD AMASSED CONCERNING CORRUPTION AMONG HIGH-

RANKING ARGENTINE NAVAL OFFICERS. REPORTEDLY, TWO HOURS AFTER HIS MEETING WITH MASSERA, DURING WHICH HE LEFT A MEMORANDUM DOCUMENTING HIS EVIDENCE, MASSAGATTI'S HOME WAS RAIDED BY UNIDENTIFIED INDIVIDUALS SEARCHING FOR HIM. THE ONLY PERSON AT HOME AT THE TIME, MASSAGATTI'S 15-YEAR OLD DAUGHTER, WAS CARRIED OFF. SHE REPORTEDLY WAS ROUGHED UP SOMEWHAT BUT HAS SINCE BEEN RELEASED. MASSAGATTI HAS NOT BEEN SEEN BY OUR CONTACT SINCE THEN AND PRESUMABLY HAS FLED, OR ATTEMPTED TO FLEE THE COUNTRY, REPORTEDLY HEADED FOR PARAGUAY.

2. COMMENT: MASSAGATTI'S DISAPPEARANCE HAS NOT YET BEEN REPORTED IN THE MEDIA TO OUR KNOWLEDGE. THIS INCIDENT TAKES PLACE AGAINST A BACKDROP OF GROWING TENSIONS WITHIN THE ARMED FORCES AND THE GOVERNMENT AS A RESULT OF PRESSURE FROM HARDLINING ANTI-LABOR MILITARY AND POLICE ELEMENTS TO INVESTIGATE CORRUPTION IN HIGH PLACES DURING THE PREVIOUS LANUSSE MILITARY AND PERONIST GOVERNMENTS. EXPRESIDENT LANUSSE AND HIGH-RANKING MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING RETIRED ADMIRAL GNAVI, RECENTLY WERE ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH A RENEWED INVESTIGATION INTO THE ALUAR ALUMINUM CONTRACT. MASSAGATTI HAS BEEN DISTRAUGHT SINCE THE INTERVENTION OF HIS UNION LAST YEAR, WHICH REPORTEDLY WAS ORDERED FOR A COMBINATION OF REASONS, POSSIBLY INCLUDING ALLEGATIONS OF MISHANDLING OF UNION FUNDS. SOMU AND FAMAR ARE AFFILIATES OF THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT WORKERS FEDERATION (ITF). SOME WEEKS AGO A COLLEAGUE OF MASSAGATTI HAD REQUESTED ITF'S MEDARDO GOMERO'S ASSISTANCE IN GETTING MASSAGATTI OUT OF THE COUNTRY FOR A BREATH (REFTEL B), BUT WE ARE UNAWARE WHETHER GOMERO
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RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Sent Date: 13-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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